

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13 and 17-18 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter or prejudice against future prosecution. Applicants also amend claims 1, 6, 11 and 14. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, and 14-16 are pending in the application.

Applicants note that the Office Action indicates that claims 4, 9 and 14-16 define patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Muegge et al. U.S. patent publication 2004/0037094 ("Muegge").

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over Muegge for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Among other things, the method of claim 1 includes providing a resonant tank circuit connected to an output of an electronic ballast, and sensing a tank current in the resonant tank circuit to produce a sensed output voltage signal.

Applicants respectfully submit that Muegge does not disclose any method including this combination of features.

The Office Action states with respect to previously-pending claim 3 that Muegge "inherently" discloses sensing a tank current – stating that a tank current flows through tank inductor L-1 in FIG. 7.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

FIG. 7 of Muegge does not show any resonant tank circuit. In particular, L1 and C1 do not form a resonant tank circuit. Instead, L1 operates with C1 to form a low pass filter for filtering out some of the AC component from AC input 92 from reaching the load 24 (see, e.g., paragraph [0007], line 5; paragraph [0039], lines 5-6).

So Muegge does not disclose (inherently or otherwise) sensing a tank current.

Applicants also note that Muegge pertains to an AC-DC switching power converter, and not an electronic ballast. So it is not possible for Muegge to disclose “*providing a resonant tank circuit connected **to an output of an electronic ballast***” as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Muegge.

Claim 6

Among other things, the system of claim 6 includes a resonant tank circuit connected to an output of the electronic ballast, and means for sensing a tank current in the resonant tank circuit to generate a sensed output voltage signal.

Again, Applicants respectfully submit that Muegge does not disclose: (1) an electronic ballast; or (2) a resonant tank circuit connected to an output of an electronic ballast.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentable over Muegge.

Claim 11

Among other things, the circuit of claim 11 includes a resonant tank circuit operably connected to an output of an electronic ballast and generating a sensed output voltage signal.

Again, Applicants respectfully submit that Muegge does not disclose: (1) an electronic ballast; or (2) a resonant tank circuit operably connected to an output of an electronic ballast.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over Muegge.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, and 14-16 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any

outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT



By: _____

Kenneth D. Springer
Registration No. 39,843

VOLENTINE & WHITT
One Freedom Square
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, Virginia 20190
Telephone No.: (571) 283.0724
Facsimile No.: (571) 283.0740